

Serial No. 09/870,749  
Docket No. NEC01P012-JTb

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 1-6 and 9-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

Claim 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Allowed) An active matrix liquid crystal display device driven by a dot inversion driving process, said active matrix liquid crystal display device comprising:

- a first substrate with a plurality of switching elements disposed thereon;
- a second substrate disposed in opposing relation to said first substrate; a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between said first substrate and said second substrate;
- a plurality of data lines disposed on said first substrate, for supplying data signals to said switching elements;
- an overcoat layer disposed on said first substrate in covering relation to said data lines and said first substrate;

- a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix on said overcoat layer; and
- a black matrix disposed on said data lines;
- said pixel electrodes being driven by said switching elements, respectively;
- said data lines being disposed at respective gaps between adjacent two of said pixel electrodes;

said black matrix having a portion overlapping said pixel electrodes, said portion having a width W represented by:

$$W \geq d_{LC}/2 + d_{OC} \tan \theta$$

where  $d_{LC}$  represents a thickness of said liquid crystal layer,  $d_{OC}$  represents a thickness of said overcoat layer on said black matrix, and  $\theta$  represents one-half of a given viewing angle  $2\theta$ .

Claim 8. (Allowed) An active matrix liquid crystal display device according to claim 7, wherein the thickness  $d_{OC}$  of said overcoat layer on said black matrix is at most  $1 \mu\text{m}$ , and said overcoat layer planarizes steps of said black matrix to at most  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 9-20. (Canceled)